

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) if so, Government's reaction on this appeal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) According to available information, 74 Indian PoWs are believed to be in Pakistani jails including 54 since 1971-72. However, Pakistan does not admit the presence of Indian PoWs in its jails. Government have consistently taken up this issue with Government of Pakistan at all levels.

(c) Government have received, from time to time, representations from family members about the fate and welfare of these Indian nationals.

(d) In pursuance of the efforts to locate Indian PoWs, Government had requested the Pakistan Government to accept a visit by the families of the missing defence personnel to Pakistan. In January, 2007, the Government of Pakistan agreed to accept a visit by the families of PoWs.

Claim for non-permanent seat in UNSC

3087. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has staked its claim for non-permanent UNSC seat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would dilute its chances for a permanent seat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. India has presented its candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council from the Asian Group for the term 2011-12. Government are taking necessary steps to mobilise support for India's candidature.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.